



Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI)
or
State-Approved
Teaching Mathematical Thinking (TMT)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the MTI course?

Q: The MTI class I want to get into is full. Is there a waiting list?

Q: The MTI class I want to get into is full. Can I sign up for a different grade-level course?

Q: When is the MTI course offered?

Q: How much does it cost?

Q: How do I sign up for a class?

Q: Who can take the MTI course?

Q: Do music and PE teachers need to take the MTI class?

Q: I'm not currently teaching, but would like to maintain my license. Do I need to take the class?

Q: Is there a way to opt out of the course?

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions about MTI?

Q: What are teachers saying about the course?

Q: What is the MTI course?

A: With the help of Idaho teachers and math education experts, the State Department of Education created the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course, a three-credit course that gives Idaho teachers and administrators the best practices and teaching strategies they need to help all students succeed in math. The MTI course, or the state-approved Teaching Mathematical Thinking (TMT) course, will be required for certification in 2014. The MTI course was developed by a committee of educators under the direction of the State Department of Education and Dr. Jonathan Brendefur, who manages the Developing Mathematical Thinking Institute (DMT) at Boise State University. Based on feedback from this committee, the MTI was split into three different sections based on grade level -- grades K-3 focusing on early number sense, grades 4-8 focusing on rational number sense, and grades 6-12 focusing on algebraic thinking. Teachers will be required to take only one of these courses by 2014 for recertification. Teachers and administrators have a choice of which class they take, but they are strongly encouraged to take the course that most closely matches their teaching assignment.

Q: Who can take the MTI or TMT course?

A: Idaho certified teachers and administrators are required to take the MTI course or state-approved alternate TMT course. The following list is a description of who must take the course for recertification.

- Teachers holding an Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Blended Certificate (Birth - Grade 3) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom, K-8)
- Teachers holding a Standard Elementary Certificate (K-8) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom, K-8)
- Teachers holding a Standard Secondary Certificate (6-12) teaching in a math content classroom (grade six through grade twelve) including Title I classrooms who is employed in an elementary classroom (Multi-subject classroom K-8)
- Teachers holding a Standard Exceptional Child Certificate (K-12) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom K-8)
- School administrators holding an Administrator Certificate (Pre K-12) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom K-8, including all school district and charter administrators.

Q: The MTI or TMT class I want to get into is full.
What do I do? Is there a waiting list?

A: Please contact your Regional Mathematics Center concerning the next available class. Your Regional Math Specialist's contact information, and a regional map link, can be found at the bottom of the webpage at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.

We also recommend you keep an eye on the registration site, particularly as the first class date approaches. People will often drop the course for various reasons. When this happens, spots will open on the registration website. Universities are unable to keep waiting lists.

Q: The MTI or TMT class I want to get into is full. Can I sign up for a different grade-level course?

Example: You are a 4th grade teacher and the 4-8 course is full. Should you sign up for the 6-12 course?

A: In terms of the state certification requirement you are not required to take a particular grade-level course. However, in terms of applicability to your classroom **we highly recommend you sign-up for the grade-level band that most closely matches your grade-level assignment.**

If the class you want to take is full, we recommend that you keep an eye on the registration website, particularly as the first class date approaches. People will often drop the course for various reasons. When this happens, spots will open on the registration website. Universities are unable to keep waiting lists. You may also contact your Regional Math Specialist. RMS contact information, and a regional map link, can be found at the bottom of the webpage at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.

Q: When is the MTI or TMT course offered?

A: Please contact your Regional Mathematics Center concerning class schedules. Regional Math Specialist contact information, and a regional map link, can be found at the bottom of the web page at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.

Q: How much does it cost? How do I sign up?

A: Costs will vary for professional development credit or graduate credit. Please contact your Regional Mathematics Center concerning cost, credit, registration and payment options. Regional Math Specialist contact information, and a regional map link, can be found at the bottom of the web page at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.

- Sign-up is first come, first served and open to all Idaho educators.
(No wait listing)
- Registration begins promptly at 8:00a.m. MT (7:00 a.m. PT) on the date advertised on the SDE website. Each person must sign-up himself or herself.

Q: Do music and PE teachers need to take the MTI class?

A: All certified K-8 teachers and secondary certified teachers with a math endorsement are required to take the class by the year 2014. For more information on certification requirements, please see the website (<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>), under “MTI Recertification Requirement / Transcript Credits”.

Q: I'm not currently teaching, but would like to maintain my license. Do I need to take the class?

A: The MTI/TMT class is not required for renewal if a person is not currently employed as a teacher in Idaho. We do, however, encourage certified teachers to take the MTI/TMT course regardless of employment status. For information regarding renewal, please go to the Certification Renewal site at

[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher certification/renewal cert cred.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_certification/renewal_cert_cred.htm)

Q: Is there a way to opt out of the course?

A: No, the Idaho Math Initiative task force believes it is critical for every elementary and math teacher to receive this training. For information on recertification, go to

[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher certification/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_certification/).

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions about MTI ?

A: MTI Regional Math Specialists are working in each region of the state to provide support to districts in implementing the MTI practices. These specialists will be coordinating with IDMT staff to schedule MTI classes in all regions of Idaho. Please contact them if you have questions regarding the MTI or TMT classes. Contact information is on the next slide.

MTI Idaho Regional Mathematics Centers

- Region I: Abe Wallin wallin@uidaho.edu
- Region II: Christina Tondevold cdtondevold@lcsc.edu
- Regions III-IV: Sam Strother samstrother@boisestate.edu
- Regions III-IV: Jackie Ismail jacquelynismail@boisestate.edu
- Regions III-IV: Gwyneth Hughes, PhD.
gwynethhughes@boisestate.edu
- Regions IV-VI: Rhonda Birnie birnrhon@isu.edu
Jason Libberton libbjaso@isu.edu

Q: What are teachers saying about the course?

- “Even though I majored in math in college, I never really understood the why or how it worked. I’ve been stuck in the box all this time and I didn’t know it! As an elementary principal, thanks for helping our teachers get out of the box too. I can’t wait to see what they incorporate into their teaching this next year! Thanks for helping us learn and grow as educators!”
- “Wow! Thank you for an amazing week! I thought I understood math. I really was good at memorizing rules. This will really change how I teach. Not a moment wasted this week!”
- “... I’d like to thank you again for a wonderful week of math. I’m sitting here with my math book and solving problems using various methods. My husband told me I have all summer and I need to give it a break (but that’s not my style). I’m already excited about next school year.”